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In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 3 illustrates a torque output map used by the torque based control system according to a first embodiment of the present invention. In the present invention, the Y-axis 20 of the torque output map represents the output torque request and the X-axis 22 of the torque output map represents the engine speed. The present invention modifies at least a portion of at least one of the axes of engine speed and output torque request during idling of the engine such that the requested engine output torque is zero torque during idling. In a first preferred embodiment, the X-axis 22 representing engine speed is modified in the torque output map by multiplying a portion (box 30 in FIG. 3) of the X-axis 22 by s_{ai}/s_{ni} , wherein s_{ai} =an actual idle speed (i.e., current idle speed) and s_{ni} =a nominal idle speed. The nominal idle speed is the engine speed where the current position of the acceleration pedal will produce a zero value for the output torque request given the original ~~torque output~~ torque output map. In the first preferred embodiment, the X-axis is preferably only modified when the pedal position and the engine speed are below certain predetermined values. Preferably, the X-axis is only modified when the acceleration pedal position is below a certain value (line 24 in FIG. 3) and the engine speed is below approximately 1500 rpm. The X-axis is modified when the acceleration pedal position is below a certain value, such that torque based control system produces a zero output torque request from the X-axis corresponding to the idle speed.